

Queensway, London  
May 17, 1981

Dear Helen & Elmer,

I started to write this letter in the style to which Helen is so adept - backwards & upside down - but to no avail (except some exceedingly sloppy, illegible scribbles). So you'll just have to manage with this ~~admittedly primitive~~ right side up, left to right script.

I just wanted to tell you I've been twice to the Tate Museum to see the painting of "Valley Farm" by Turner - which is on the lovely China plate you gave me also. It is a beautiful painting - the scene is wrapped in soft autumn tones of green blue, & brown - I thought it gave off

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such a feeling of peace and serenity. I'm so glad I have the plate on the kitchen wall to remind me of the painting, as well as the wonderful time we had during your visit to London.

Jim & I are trying to get organized for our move to Italy. But we are quite excited now, too, about our trip to Paris & Amsterdam. We ~~leave~~ six days from ~~today~~ and will spend three days in Paris then go by train to Amsterdam for another three days.

Our new life in Italy promises to be very interesting - there'll be no such thing as an "ordinary" day there. I haven't been studying my Italian, but I have a feeling I'll soon need to.

Hope your spring is sunnier than ours! (It's doing its favorite shower show again today).

Love, Vicki